

MRS. MARIA GIOVANNA HOPKINS

JUNE 24, 1960.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. EASTLAND, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 3408]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (S. 3408) for the relief of Mrs. Maria Giovanna Hopkins, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to Mrs. Maria Giovanna Hopkins as of July 20, 1950, the date on which she was first admitted to the United States as a visitor. The bill also provides that she shall be held and considered to have met the residence and physical presence requirements of section 316 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, thus making her eligible to file a petition for naturalization.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill is a 35-year-old native and citizen of Italy who first entered the United States as a visitor in July 1950 and was married to a U.S. citizen member of the Army shortly thereafter. In 1950 she accompanied her husband to Austria and last entered the U.S. for permanent residence on December 12, 1958. Her husband died in January 1959 and she is presently residing in Ozark, Ala. with her 5 children.

A letter, with attached memorandum, dated June 10, 1960, to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the Com-

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missioner of Immigration and Naturalization with reference to the bill reads as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE,
Washington D.C., June 10, 1960.

Hon. JAMES O. EASTLAND,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: In response to your request for a report relative to the bill (S. 3408) for the relief of Mrs. Maria Giovanna Hopkins, there is attached a memorandum of information concerning the beneficiary. This memorandum has been prepared from the Immigration and Naturalization Service files relating to the beneficiary by the Atlanta, Ga. office of this Service, which has custody of those files.

The bill provides that, for the purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the beneficiary shall be held and considered to have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence as of July 20, 1950. She has been a lawful permanent resident of the United States since December 12, 1958. The bill is apparently intended to immediately provide the beneficiary with sufficient residence and physical presence for naturalization eligibility.

Sincerely,

J. M. SWING, *Commissioner.*

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FROM IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE FILES RE MRS. MARIA GIOVANNA HOPKINS, BENEFICIARY OF S. 3408

The beneficiary, a native and citizen of Italy, was born April 26, 1925. She is widowed and resides at Ozark, Ala. She was graduated from the University of Florence in Italy in 1950 with a doctor's degree in chemistry. She has never been employed. Her parents reside in Italy and have no other children.

The beneficiary was married in 1950 to Harry S. Hopkins, a U.S. citizen and then a member of the U.S. Army. Five children were born of this marriage. They were born in Italy and are U.S. citizens. They reside with the beneficiary. Mr. Hopkins died in 1959, at which time he held the rank of Sergeant in the Army.

The beneficiary last entered the United States on December 12, 1958, for permanent residence. She had previously entered as an exchange visitor in July 1950. She abandoned her studies and accompanied her husband to Austria in September 1950.

The beneficiary receives \$225 monthly from the Veterans' Administration and \$100 monthly from rental of real property. She has no other income. Her assets consist of real and personal property valued at \$12,600. She has no outstanding liabilities.

The beneficiary desires to expedite her naturalization because she intends to visit Italy in the near future and would like to be a U.S. citizen at that time.

Senator Lister Hill, the author of the bill, has submitted the following information in connection with the case:

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE,
Washington, D.C., June 14, 1960.

HON. JAMES O. EASTLAND,
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR JIM: I am writing you with reference to S. 3408, which I introduced on April 25, 1960, for the relief of Mrs. Maria Giovanna Hopkins, Ozark, Ala.

Mrs. Hopkins, a native of Italy, entered the United States in July of 1950 on a student visa and attended the Millikin University, Decatur, Ill. Shortly thereafter, she married an American serviceman, Harry S. Hopkins, and in September 1950 they left for Austria under military orders, where they remained until September 1954 when Specialist Hopkins was rotated back to the United States (Fort Stewart, Ga.). Mrs. Hopkins was unable to accompany her husband back to the United States at that time inasmuch as their youngest son was only 1 month old and Army regulations would not permit him to travel until reaching 6 months of age. Before Mrs. Hopkins and her children were able to rejoin Specialist Hopkins, however, he was sent to Korea on a special assignment and, therefore, instead of returning to the United States, Mrs. Hopkins rejoined her family in Italy. Specialist Hopkins returned to the United States in December 1958 (Fort Rucker, Ala.), and was joined by his wife and children on January 1, 1959. On January 31, 1959, Specialist Hopkins died.

As you know, in 1952, legislation was enacted which provides for the expeditious naturalization of the alien wife of an American serviceman, but there is no comparable section relating to the widow of a serviceman. Therefore, in order for Mrs. Hopkins to proceed toward naturalization she must resort to the general provision of the naturalization laws and thus will be precluded from qualifying for citizenship until 1964.

Mrs. Hopkins and her five children are presently residing in Ozark, Ala., and she tells me that it is her intent and purpose to make Alabama her permanent home. Her late husband was a member of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Army and compiled an outstanding record in the service of his country, including a Special Citation from the Republic of Korea, a copy of which I enclose herewith along with other data from friends and neighbors of Mrs. Hopkins attesting to her integrity and high moral character.

Let me say that I was very much impressed with Mrs. Hopkins when she visited my office last fall, and I am anxious to help her in any way I can in connection with her endeavor to become an American citizen at the earliest possible date.

I do hope it may be possible for your committee to favorably consider S. 3408 prior to the adjournment of Congress and I will appreciate your assistance in the matter.

With kindest personal regards, I am,
Very sincerely,

LISTER HILL.

MOBILE, ALA., February 15, 1960.
 Senator LISTER HILL,
 Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR HILL: Mrs. Maria Hopkins of Ozark, Ala., has employed me to handle the purchase of a home by her in Mobile, and during the past several months I have become very well acquainted with her.

Mrs. Hopkins said that even though she was married to a citizen of the United States, now deceased, for many years she is not eligible to apply for citizenship because she has not lived in the country for 5 years. Although she has been married to him many years they have always lived in other parts of the world where he was stationed in the Armed Forces. She has five children by him.

The purpose of this letter is to request that some action be taken to expedite the processing of Mrs. Hopkins' citizenship application, or that the law be changed to permit her to apply for citizenship without waiting 5 years, because her children are all citizens and she is a citizen in every way except the technical formality required. It was not her fault that she and her family were required to live in other lands while her husband was serving his country, and it is again only a technicality of residence.

I spent 2 years in Italy and learned to love the Italian people. Mrs. Hopkins is a fine lady and she is a credit to this country. She certainly should be permitted to become a citizen. She is an intelligent, levelheaded property owner, and she and her family certainly deserve every consideration.

Any assistance you can give in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

FOREMAN & BROWN,
 By KEENER T. BLACKMARR.

JANUARY 14, 1960.

To Whom It May Concern:

While serving as first sergeant of the 44th Ordnance Company (FS) in Ui-Jon-Bu, Korea, I was acquainted with Sp1c. Harry Hopkins. Specialist Hopkins was serving with the CI Hq I Corps, and on occasion I worked with Specialist Hopkins and his partner, Specialist Smith, on matters concerning my company.

I knew Specialist Hopkins but a short time. We met socially on a few occasions, and I thought him to be a very fine man.

As soon as I learned Specialist Hopkins was assigned to Fort Rucker, I immediately tried to contact him to renew our acquaintance. Much to my regret, his untimely death prevented our meeting.

I met Mrs. Hopkins at the time of her husband's death. I have met and talked with her on several occasions. Mrs. Hopkins is the mother of five wonderful children.

EUGENE M. FAUST,
Sfc. RA45045804.

MOBILE, ALA., January 18, 1960.

To Whom It May Concern:

I, the undersigned, having known Mrs. Marie Hopkins for the past 6 years wish to attest to the fact that she is a person of honesty and integrity and morally beyond reproach.

If it should become necessary for me to speak in her behalf I would do so gladly and without hesitation. I am sure that this person would be a distinct asset to any community in which she may choose to reside.

Sincerely,

ELLEN J. HUBER.

MOBILE, ALA., January 18, 1960.

To Whom It May Concern:

I, the undersigned, have known Mrs. Marie Hopkins for the past 6 years and have known her to be a person of moral and spiritual integrity. Her conduct has always been beyond reproach and I have at all times considered her to be a valuable friend and an asset to the community in which she resided.

If I should be asked to vouch for her in any statement which she would choose to make I would do so without hesitation.

Sincerely,

ROBERT C. HUBER.

OFFICE OF THE CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN,
2D BATTLE GROUP, 2D INFANTRY,
February 8, 1960.

To Whom It May Concern:

Maria G. Hopkins is a well-educated lady of upright character and excellent morals. She was one of my parishioners in 1959 when her husband died at Fort Rucker, the day after being decorated by the Korean Government for his tour of duty in Korea.

She and her children would be an asset to any community among whom they might live in the United States.

She would make a good American citizen.

JAMES J. MURPHY,
Chaplain (1st Lt.) USA, Catholic Chaplain.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (S. 3408) should be enacted.

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